



Legislative Testimony  
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**Written Testimony Supporting House Bill 6548, An Act Concerning the  
Recommendations of the Jury Selection Task Force**

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Kelly McConney Moore, and I am the interim senior policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 6548, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Jury Selection Task Force.

The ACLU-CT believes that every person, regardless of their criminal record, should be afforded an opportunity for full civic participation without unnecessary barriers. People living with a record, and the communities they live in, are strengthened when people are able to integrate and are not held back because of their history. One way that people with a record can meaningfully participate in their communities is by exercising their civic rights and responsibilities, like voting and jury service. In addition, making sure an accurate cross-section of the community is represented in the jury pool is a critical failsafe of a fair trial.

In Connecticut, current state law excludes people with certain records for years after they have finished serving their sentences. This law denies people the opportunity to participate in society as fully community members. In the U.S., serving on a jury is a basic function of citizenship. By excluding people with certain records from jury service, Connecticut is also denying criminal defendants their constitutional right to a jury of their peers drawn from a fair cross-section of the community.

House Bill 6548 would change that, though. By eliminating the prohibition on people with felony convictions serving on juries for seven years after their conviction, a barrier to civic participation is removed. This changes in this bill will also ensure more representative jury pools and juries for criminal defendants. Accordingly, the ACLU-CT supports Section 1 of House Bill 6548 and urges this Committee to do the same.